

Virtue and Innocence;

A POEM FOR CHILDREN.



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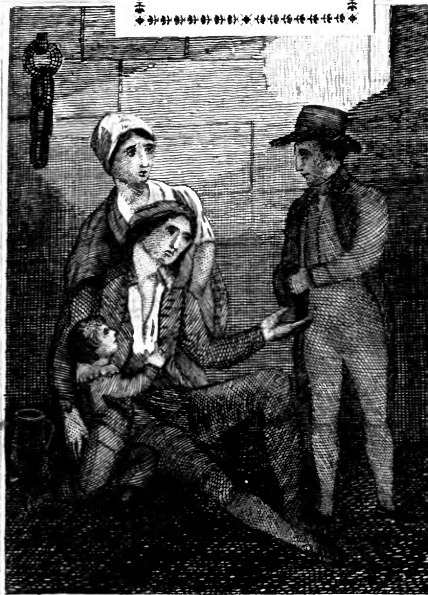
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CHILDREN'S BOOK
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*The captive let my hand relieve,
And he his blessings shall bestow,
And wish that I while I shall live,
In health and happiness may grow.*

VIRTUE.
AND
INNOCENCE.
(A Poem)



we will also dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the
and the calf & they will hark the falling together and a hale child shall lead them.



TO PARENTS.

IN an age so enlightened as the present, when Christianity is universally professed, we cannot help thinking it a serviceable piece of duty, to instil the principles of peace and innocence in the minds and hearts of the rising generation. While we survey the horrors and calamities of war, we cannot help lamenting the injurious effects and complicated miseries which are produced by it; and we hope, that by implanting purer motives in the tender breast, we may be raising a barrier to future evils of the same kind. It is from the want of a religious and moral education that so many oppressions and grievances are deluging mankind: if we correct this error, we may obviate the consequences, and secure the moments of tranquillity to future times. To perform such an important task, this little

Poem is, with deference, offered to the Public ; and it is sincerely hoped that its effects may answer its design, which, if they do, will produce many blessings that are unknown in the distractions of the present day.

VIRTUE AND INNOCENCE.

1.

Invocation.

HAIL fairest Innocency! hail,
Me through all my days attend,
Grant that I may never fail
To prove to all mankind a friend.

2.

My infant moments watch with care,
And check each cruel wish of mine,
Make me as pure as angels are,
That peace around my brows may shine.

3.

Let Love each action move to man,
And e'en to beasts be tender too,
That Love which first in Christ began,
And which he bore to me and you.

4. *Tenderness to Animals.*

Shall we be cruel to the fly,
Which God in wisdom made to live;
Who shall bid that creature die,
That cannot life and power give?

5.

Did not God's creative hand
Give us life and genial breath?
He will bid our days to end,
And seal us up in lasting death.

6. *Rewards of Virtue and Vice.*

If on earth we virtue gain,
Cherish Love and Innocence,
We with him may hope to reign
In his happy bright expanse.

7.

But if cruelty and hate
Shall our mortal days beguile,
Can we hope that happy state
Shall come with God's indulgent smile?

8. *Kindness to the Poor.*

If wealth upon our lives bestow
Charms of affluence and ease,
And health shall thro' our bosoms flow,
Still let us pity poor disease.

9.

Still let us look benignant down
Upon the miseries of life,
And think that they might be our own,
And cause us pain and woful strife.

10. *God's Goodness displayed.*

'Tis God alone that gives us joy,
And smiles with love beneficent
Upon our days, which we destroy
With anger, rage, and discontent.

11. *Anger to be avoided.*

Oh! let us keep our tongues at peace,
And ere we speak each word regard,
The wise will bid their passions cease,
And happiness is their reward:

12.

If in my life some foes assault,
(And who in life from foes is free?)
Let me remember every fault
That has been done and said by me:

13.

Then shall I keep my fury down,
And calmly seek to bear the wrong;
And Heaven will bless his years alone,
Who bears in patience envy's tongue.

14.

But if I burst with malice great,
And strive to injure every foe,
Who can foretel my dismal fate ?
Or who my endless mis'ries know ?

15.

On Charity.

Let me the humble beggar ease
From pain, from poverty, and wo ;
So shall my days prolong in peace,
And end in tranquil joys below.

16.

The captive let my hand relieve,
And he his blessings shall bestow,
And wish that I while I shall live,
In health and happiness may grow.

17.

And ah ! let me despise the heart
Which plots some evil 'gainst mankind,
That shoots the rankling venom'd dart
Against the peaceful, honest mind.

18.

My fancy let me hold secure,
And not be led from truth astray,
Let virtue all my soul allure,
And lead me thro' the troubled day.

19.

On War.

Ah, how can man, how can the world
Such praise on warriors bestow?
Who with the standard when unfurl'd,
Bid streams of human blood to flow.

20.

What! if a sea or mountain part
Two nations, shall eternal war
Rankle and poison every heart,
And stain with gore meek mercy's car?

21.

Ye vain, ye wicked, and ye proud,
Who lavish all your songs of praise
On the dead hero 'neath his shroud,
Can ye command his soul to raise?

22.

No! all your art that vainly boasts
Is there defeated; then no more
Destroy nor murder countless hosts,
Nor moist the fields with human gore.

23.

General Beneficence recommended.

Learn mercy, learn to love mankind,
Let war no more your fury boil,
Let peace and love united bind
Each man in every distant soil.

24.

So when our years are flown away,
And we in age reflect on life,
Shall feel it melt in soft decay,
Untroubled, free from every strife :

25.

Joys of Virtue.

Let us the wise and virtuous praise,
For they deserve our blessings all,
To them let songs of honour raise,
To them let every infant call.

26.

For they our lives can best direct,
And guide us free from storms and rocks,
They can our virtues best protect,
From vice's gales and mortal shocks.

27.

They can our hearts for ever bind
In love and harmony complete,
And bid the giddy youthful mind
From vice's flowery ways retreat.

28.

Virtue and Truth extolled.

Oh ! what joy and happiness
Might upon our days attend,
If we would each other bless,
And be to each a cheerful friend !

29.

If our parents give us learning,
Shall we idle out our days?
Is not virtue worth its earning?
Is not truth deserving praise?

30. *Shortness of wicked Joy.*

Go ye wicked sons who rather
Haunt the scenes of loathsome vice,
There in age ye pain shall gather,
Though they bid your youth rejoice.

31. *Real Pleasure endless.*

I will heap a store of pleasure,
Like the ant against to-morrow,
Feast my soul with heavenly treasure,
While they linger out in sorrow.

32. *On Christian Love.*

All the duties man must do,
Christ has summ'd in one word—Love,
Let us keep it then in view,
And ne'er without it dare to move.

33.

Love it is that teaches nature
To behold with gentle eye,
Every human, every creature,
With soft looks of charity.

34.

Shall we then, against example,
Dare to wage eternal war?
Shall we on God's commandments trample?
And in sin his vengeance dare.

35.

Let us strive to wake each feeling,
That can soften pity's heart;
Oh, what joys I now feel stealing
Thro' each tender melting part!

36.

'Tis a pleasure only given
To those meek and placid sons,
Who behold the aims of Heaven,
Looking up for future crowns.

37.

On Pride.

Oh! how can man delight in pride,
Who nothing has but God bestow'd!
And God must every heart deride
That belongeth to the proud.

38.

'Tis not wealth that makes us good,
'Tis virtue only will improve;
All men alike are flesh and blood;
Oh! let us then each other love.

39.

Fine clothes are not for virtue given ;
For oft in poverty there lies
A purer heart that's blessed by heaven,
Which would charm e'en angel-eyes :

40.

And wicked minds sometimes are hidden
'Neath a mantle very fine ;
Which pursue the path forbidden,
And their days to vice consign.

41.

How oft intemperance destroys
All the vigour of their lives,
Marrs old age's soothing joys,
Which heaven to the virt'ous gives.

42.

On Conscience.

Conscience wakes their painful heart,
And guilt affrights the dying mind,
Pain lifts up her vengeful dart,
And terror stands their bed behind.

43.

The end of the just.

But when the good depart from earth,
Angels come commission'd down,
To give him a celestial birth,
And adorn him with a crown.

44.

Oh! how peacefully he lays,
Sinking in the arms of death,
Whispering songs of heavenly praise,
With his feeble fault'ring breath.

45.

On Truth.

Then let us truth for ever seek,
And guard each action of the soul;
Heaven strengthens all the weak
'Gainst the Devil's bad controul.

46.

Punishment for Slander.

Never let the tongue pretend
To speak a scandalizing word,
Against a foe, nor yet a friend,
For all are by the Almighty heard.

47.

And he'll punish us with pain,
If we still persist in wrong,
But will take us back again,
If we mend our evil tongue.

48.

The Gentleness of God's Admonitions.

Oh! how soothing is the voice
Heaven to the wicked sends!
Calmly tells them that their choice,
Is against what he commends.

49.

But if we are deaf to all,
He in mercy to us says,
And will not attend his call,
We may look for bitter days.

50. *The Rewards of Virtue on Earth.*

Oh ! then I will not pursue
Any thing which he denies
So shall I behold in view,
Heaven opening on my eyes.

51.

Then shall I be bless'd with life,
Free from danger, peril, pain ;
Not knowing aught of wicked strife,
But lead a happy, peaceful reign.

52.

Then shall I live in joy, and end
My days with pleasure and with ease ;
By all the world confess'd a friend ;
And close my eyes in lasting peace.

53. *Rules for our Conduct.*

Never promise aught to do
If you cannot it perform ;
So no dangers shall pursue
You with disappointing form.

54.

Check the haughty, raise the low,
Soothe the pains which men possess ;
So shall God to you bestow
Ease, and health, and happiness.

55. *Sabbath to be kept sacred.*

Idle not the sabbath day,
'Tis not time to trifle then,
Heaven bids us fervent pray
To God who made us mortal men.

56. *Beneficence enforced.*

Never let thy mouth despise
Any sect that virtue seek ;
All are equal in the eyes
Of Heaven, who are good and meek.

57.

Learn to practice then with care,
Charity to all mankind ;
Love from all will then appear
To extol your christian mind.

58. *Duty to Parents.*

But above all other things,
God will love you more and more
If your love to parents springs
In your heart, and them adore.

59.

Did not they, when you was young,
Cherish every infant want?
Often on their breasts you hung;
Then your gratitude now grant.

60.

'Tis what you indebted owe,
And must give, if you desire
Joys of heaven hence to know,
Or live with God when you expire.

61.

And who would not wish to gain
Happiness and crowns of joy,
Days of ease unknown to pain,
Which no time can e'er destroy?

62.

Think on this, and you will chide
Every thought of wicked kind,
Check the starts of vicious pride,
And all malice in the mind.

63.

Every action you will guard,
And be perfect, free, and clean,
From all vice, and gain reward
In the blissful, happy scene.

64. *The eternal Blessing of Purity.*

Then with angels you shall play,
Sing the songs of heavenly joy
In an everlasting day,
Where no sensual lusts shall cloy.



THE
TEN COMMANDMENTS;

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

THE
COLLECT OF THE COMMUNION SERVICE;
IN VERSE.

ADAPTED TO YOUTH.

THE COLLECT.

OH ! Thou to whom all hearts ope wide,
To whom all thoughts are known,
Those secrets from the world we hide
To Thee we freely own.

Oh ! grant us thy inspiring grace,
Cleanse every thought impure :
Great are thy mercies to our race,
Yet add one mercy more.

That conscious of thy wond'rous love,
Our own may perfect be ;
And every future action prove.
How much we honour thee.

TEN COMMANDMENTS.

I.

THEY first and great command was given,
That, to eternity,
Sinners on earth, like saints in heaven,
Should own no God but thee.

II.

Though human art and powers combine
To form with richest ore,
Tho' the world's treasures round it shine,
No image we'll adore.

Our souls, enlightened, soar above,
And scorn the earthly sod :
Our griefs, our hopes, our prayers, and love,
Are centre'd in our God.

He views us with a jealous eye,
When from his laws we stray,
And ages yet to come may die
For what we do this day.

Then let us flee the wrath we dread,
Nor from true worship rove,
His mercy like the Heaven, doth spread
Wide as the seas his love.

III.

Instructed by thy warning hand,
Sole author of our fate,
Shall we delay at thy command,
Altho' in infant state—

To prove our sense of thy just law,
And from all sin refrain,
To hear thy holy name with awe,
Nor use it e'er in vain.

IV.

Let us remember evermore
(Whate'er our sports and play)
Six days of mirth, or labour o'er,
We rest the seventh day :

For he who all creation made
In six days' space of time,
Rested the seventh—his work survey'd—
And nam'd that day divine.

In it, he said, "Not only thou,
But all that are thy kin,
Thy servants too, shall keep this vow,
The breaking which is sin."

Oh ! can we then, who feel the bliss
His bounteous hand bestows,
Not spare one day to acknowledge this,
And gratitude disclose.

Yes, holy period, which our Lord
Hath hallow'd 'bove the rest,
We'll form our actions and our word
To that which he loves best.

V.

Give to thy parents honour due
From duty, and from love ;
That all thou dost may bear the view
Of him who reigns above.

So shall thy lengthen'd days proclaim
That his all-seeing eye
Hath view'd thy works, approv'd the same,
Nor shall thou fear to die.

VI.

Whate'er the ills thou may'st endure,
Tho' cruel be thy foe,
Let not thy own hand seek a cure,
Lest thou encrease thy wo.

Dare not to raise thy impious hand,
When rous'd by worldly strife,
For murder, by our Lord's command,
Cuts short eternal life.

VII.

God hath ordain'd, that we should keep
Our passions within bound ;
Conscience, alas ! can never sleep
Where guilt is to be found.

Shun then with equal dread and care
Adultery's glaring sin ;
So may thy virtue never fear
The monitor within.

VIII.

Never from motives rash as vain,
Seek to encrease thy store
By deeds that never end in pain,
And make thee worse than poor.

If slender be thy share of wealth,
Be thou with it content,
For God hath said, "who gains by stealth,
Hereafter shall repent."

IX.

Let truth your every action guide ;
Nor seek, from selfish ends,
Your neighbour's honour to deride—
Live with mankind as friends.

X.

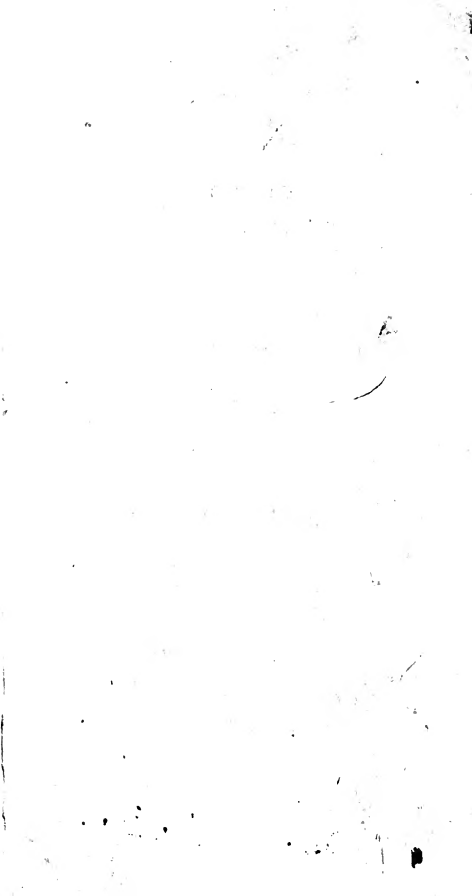
Let us not covet aught we see
Bestow'd by God on others,
Or view with eye of jealousy
The wealth we know another's :

Nor e'er invade our neighbour's right,
His comforts or his labours :
For ever sacred in our sight
Be that which is our neighbour's.



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THE
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OR
Incidents in Life,
FOUNDED ON TRUTH,
A TRIFLE
FOR
CHILDREN.